



STATE OF IOWA

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Iowans Urged to Spring to Action, Clean Out Medicine Cabinets on Saturday

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy Interim Director Dale Woolery urge Iowans to take advantage of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) latest National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Saturday, April 28th. The event aims to prevent pill theft and abuse across the nation.

"A recent national study found more than 70 percent of people abusing prescription drugs got them from friends or relatives," said Miller. "With continued support from local, state, and federal law enforcement and community partners, these Take-Back events reduce the risk of prescription drug diversion and abuse, and increase Iowans' awareness of this critical public health issue."

"April 28th is a great spring cleaning opportunity to clean out the medicine cabinet, safely dispose of unused medicines, and help reverse one of Iowa's fastest growing forms of substance abuse," said Woolery. "Besides providing a safe and environmentally sound way to get rid of potential health hazards, DEA's Take-Back Day is also an excellent time for parents to talk with kids to prevent their abuse of prescription drugs."

Iowans can dispose of outdated or unused medications at approximately 100 sites across Iowa. Most sites will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To find a collection site near you, and their hours of operation, go to http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.

The Take-Back program is free and anonymous, and is supported by state and local law enforcement agencies and community organizations in Iowa. Since 2010, DEA's semiannual Take-Back events in Iowa have yielded more than 10,000 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal. Nationally, in the past 13 months, nearly 1 million pounds of unused prescription drugs has been collected at DEA Take-Back events.

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